

REMARKS

This is a response to a Non-Final Office Action mailed on June 18, 2007. Claims 1, 2, and 4-16 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 11-16 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Amendments to Specification and Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings because they do not show the “flywheel” of Claim 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Figure 5 shows component 18 which may be a brake disc or a flywheel. The Specification describes the weight as a brake disc or a flywheel on p. 3, line 19-p. 4, line 3:

Advantageously, the weight means is in the form of a flywheel. ... Thus, the system of the preferred embodiments rotates a flywheel or other weight about the wheel axis in the reverse direction to the wheel. This can be achieved in several ways the preferred being use of the brake disc as the reverse rotating flywheel.

To clarify that component 18 of Figure 5 may be either a brake disc or a flywheel, the Specification, on p. 6, para. 1, has been amended to include the sentence: “In another embodiment, component 18 may be a flywheel configured in the same way as described above with respect to brake disc 18.” This is clearly already described on p. 3, line 19-p. 4, line 3 and in Figure 5. Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment. At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request this objection be withdrawn.

Moreover, p. 2, para. 4 has been amended to fix a typographical error. The word “lead” has been corrected to “led.”

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watkins et al. (US 2,253,208). In response, previous Claims 1 and 3 have been combined into Amended

Claim 1. Previous Claim 3 has been cancelled. Amended Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that the weight is for improving vehicle performance. Basis for this can be found in the application as filed on page 1 at lines 1 to 2.

Amended Claim 1 now specifies that “weight is, or is part of, a braking system of the vehicle”. Neither Watkins nor any other art cited by the Office Action teach or suggest the important feature of modifying the braking system to have this arrangement. The use of an existing part of the vehicle’s wheel as claimed helps reduce the mass of the wheel system since additional mass is not required to form the weight. Therefore, amended Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant also takes this opportunity to point out that Kasten (US 6,918,467) has a priority date of 24 July 2003, which is after the priority date of the present application of 17 September 2002. Therefore, Kasten is not prior art to the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

According to the Office Action, Claim 4 “is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” In response, elements of Claims 1 and 3 have been added to Amended Claim 4. Independent Amended Claim 4 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New Claims 11 to 16 have been added to more completely address the subject matter of the present invention. Basis for New Claim 11 can be found on page 7 at lines 9 to 10. Basis for New Claim 12 can be found on page 7 at lines 8 to 9. Basis for New Claim 13 can be found on page 6 at lines 12 to 13 of the application as filed. Basis for New Claim 14 can be found on page 4 at lines 4 to 5. Basis for New Claim 15 can be found in the Figures. Basis for New Claim 16 can be found throughout the application as filed.

CONCLUSION

This response has addressed fully all of the concerns expressed in the instant Office Action and Applicant believes pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is urged. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. ✓

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Respectfully submitted,

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